

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 ICAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05

EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 L-03 OIC-02 /047 W

-----011025 080837Z /12

O R 080821Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7074

INFO USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

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NESCO

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: UNESCO, PORG, OCON

SUBJECT: UNESCO: PERMDEL MEETING WITH GEORGE BEEBE

1. GEORGE BEEBE (ASSOC. PUBLISHER OF MIAMI HERALD AND CHAIRMAN OF WORLD PRESS FREEDOM COMMITTEE (WPFC)) CALLED ON PERMDEL SEPT 6 TO DISCUSS OUTCOME OF SEPT 5 LONDON MEETING CONCERNING DG'S AUG 31 DRAFT DECLARATION ON MASS MEDIA PRINCIPLES, AND US-UNESCO RELATIONS IN GENERAL.

2. BEEBE AFFIRMED HIS AND LONDON MEETING'S IMPRESSION THAT LATEST TEXT IS UNACCEPTABLE, MORE SO THAN DEC 20, L977 DRAFT CONCERNING WHICH HE SAID THAT WITH MODIFICATIONS HERE OR THERE IT MIGHT HAVE SLIPPED THROUGH WITHOUT TOO MUCH US MEDIA OPPOSITION. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO PIN DOWN BEEBE ON UNACCEPTABLE ELEMENTS OF AUG 31 DRAFT, EXCEPT THAT HE SCORED ARTICLE 11 WHICH OUTLINES STATES RESPONSIBILITIES CONCERNING MASS MEDIA FOR OPENING UP THAT ISSUE AGAIN. HE REFERRED OCCASIONALLY TO CLAYTON KIRKPATRICK'S (EDITOR, CHICAGO TRIBUNE) RESPONSE TO THE
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AUG 21 TEXT CONTAINED IN A LETTER TO HIM, BUT DID NOT SEEM PREPARED OR WILLING TO MAKE HIS OWN COMMENTS. HE REFERRED TO AN AGREEMENT AMONG PRIVATE MEDIA PEOPLE NOT TO COMMENT ON AUG 21 DRAFT UNTIL STATE DEPARTMENT'S LEGAL BUREAU HAS THOROUGHLY REVIEWED NEW TEXT AND DRAWN ITS CONCLUSIONS. HE ALSO PROMISED TO PROVIDE DIRECTLY A REPORT OF THE LONDON MEETING WHICH HE ALSO WOULD SEND

TO BILL HARLEY OF US NATCOM.

3. PERMDEL WAS MOST SURPRISED BY BEEBE'S SEEMINGLY RELAXED ATTITUDE TOWARD MEDIA DECLARATION EXERCISE. HE DID NOT LIKE THE TEXT, OF COURSE, BUT RESPONDING TO PERM REP, SAID THAT EVEN IF AUG 21 TEXT ADOPTED UNMODIFIED, THAT US SHOULD NOT WALK OUT OF THE CONFERENCE OR EVEN CONTEMPLATE LEAVING UNESCO. BEEBE CONTINUED THAT HE HAD NEVER ADVOCATED THAT US INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED BY A WITHDRAW FROM UNESCO, AND THAT IN FACT, IN GENERAL TERMS HE SUPPORTED THE ORGANIZATION. HE SAID THAT HIS POSITION ON THIS ISSUE HAD BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD IN THE PAST.

4. BEEBE REITERATED HIS INTEREST IN OBTAINING OBSERVER STATUS FOR WORLD PRESS FREEDOM COMMITTEE (WPFC) AT THE 20TH GEN CONFERENCE, AND PRODUCED A JULY 20 LETTER FROM DAVICO ON M'BOW'S BEHALF WHICH STATED THAT WPFC "CAN BE INVITED IF IT SO WISHES". THE LETTER ASKED THAT A FORMAL REQUEST BE ADDRESSED TO THE DG, AND THAT THIS REQUEST WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE 105TH EXBD FOR ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE GEN CONF. BEEBE ALSO SAID THAT THE WPFC HAD ALSO SUBMITTED ITS APPLICATION FOR FORMAL NGO STATUS WITH UNESCO, BUT THAT IT STILL HAD RECEIVED NO REPLY OR ACKNOWLEDGMENT FROM UNESCO. (COMMENT: PERMDEL WILL FOLLOW UP ON BOTH OF THESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUESTS.)

5. CONCLUDING THE DISCUSSION, BEEBE SAID HE BELIEVED UNESCO'S POOR IMAGE IN US WAS RESULT OF INADEQUATE OR MISDIRECTED EFFORTS TO BROADCAST THE "GOOD WORK" THAT HE SUPPOSED UNESCO WAS DOING. THIS, HE BELIEVED, WAS DAVICO'S FAULT, AND MIGHT BE CORRECTED IF AN AMERICAN (WHO UNDERSTANDS THE US) WERE IN DAVICO'S POSITION. PERM REP RESPONDED THAT DAVICO'S PREDECESSOR WAS IN FACT AN AMERICAN WHO RESIGNED UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE DG AS A RESULT OF HIS HANDLING THE 18TH GEN CONF (WHICH ENDED IN NOV 1974). GIVEN THIS HISTORY, AND M'BOW'S GENERALLY SUSPICIOUS ATTITUDE TOWARD AMERICANS, IT WOULD BE UNLIKELY THAT THE DG WOULD ACCEPT ANOTHER US CITIZEN IN THAT POSITION.

6. NOTE: PER BEEBE'S REQUEST, PERM DEL HAS RESERVED TWO DOUBLE ROOMS WITH BATH AT THE HOTEL SPLENDID, 29 AVE TOURVILLE (CLOSE TO THE DERBY HOTEL) FOR OCT 24-NOV 18. THESE ARE BOOKED IN THE NAME OF INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE, AND COST 131 FRANCS EACH (ABOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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30 DOLLARS) INCLUDING BREAKFAST. WE REQUEST THAT DEPT PASS THIS INFORMATION TO BEEBE TORRES

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Message Attributes

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